

EL SHADDAI*

God is the great source of all things in the earth, and on Whom all living things depend.

SCRIPTURE†	MUSIC‡
(Strong's H7706 / 48 occurrences) Genesis 17:1-8 / (1) Genesis 28:3 Genesis 35:1-35 / (11) Genesis 43:14 Genesis 48:3 Genesis 49:25 Exodus 6:3 Ruth 1:20-21 Job 23 Job 33:4 (32x in Job) Psalm 73:25-28 Psalm 91 / 91:1-7 John 15:1-14 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9	A Christian's Daily Prayer All I Need Almighty Father As the Deer Brethren, We Have Met to Worship§ Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy Complete In Thee Doxology Great Is Thy Faithfulness Lord, I Need You My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone (Courtney) SATB O God Our Help in Ages Past Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Satisfied The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Forrest) SATB



* Theme fits in **Hebrew [Names for God]** series, usually on the off-year from the **Jehovah** series.

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

§ Manna references acknowledge that “all is vain” unless God blesses and provides.

PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

EVERYTHING NECESSARY (MOTHERS' MILK)

*The name El Shaddai means that God is everything necessary for us, in sufficient supply. The original Hebrew “morphology”** of this term is related to a mother’s milk nourishing her young child. This is a perfect physical illustration of this attribute of God. A mother’s milk is all that the baby needs for food and drink. It also boosts immunity to diseases and provides other important benefits. We don’t need to supplement God with anything else, and we don’t need to look for other sources of provision when God gives us all we need. In Christ, He has provided completely for our salvation; we are “complete in Him,” according to Colossians 2:10. He is all-sufficient!*

Promotional Post: This Sunday we continue our tour of the Hebrew names for God in the Old Testament with El Shaddai, often translated “the Almighty.” The Hebrew name means God is the all-sufficient source of everything needed. Prepare with these passages, and join us for worship: [Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

The name El Shaddai means that God is everything necessary for us, in sufficient supply. A physical illustration is the perfect composition of mother's milk to provide for a newborn baby. It is an amazing substance that cannot be duplicated by any artificial means. The benefits of breastmilk begin moments after birth and last for many years after breastfeeding ends. Unique in its composition and function, it contains all of the nutrients and vitamins a baby needs for food and drink, as well as non-nutritional components that promote infant growth and development. It has many germ and disease fighting substances that protect a baby from illness, and provides both short term and long-term health benefits to a baby, including decreased risk of infections and other diseases such as asthma, diabetes, and even cancer. It contains substances essential for optimal development of the baby's brain, and also contains the necessary immune factors to fight illnesses and allergens specific to the mothers and infants environment. Incredibly, the nutritional and immunological components of breast milk change over time, and even over the course of a day, to meet the changing needs of the growing child. For a baby, his mother’s milk is all-sufficient.

In the Old Testament, the name El Shaddai points to God’s all-sufficiency. This name encompasses the idea of God’s abundant power to nourish and support us; in fact, the term “Shaddai” itself is closely tied to the concept of a nursing mother. Just as a newborn baby receives all that he needs from his mother’s milk, as God’s children, we receive all that we need from God Himself. God promises to give us everything necessary, not only for life but for growth in godliness, and He promises to give it in perfectly sufficient supply. And when God makes us these promises, He is promising not primarily things to meet our needs but Himself.

** a word’s original meaning as it is traced backward through subtle changes over time

This means that there are never gaps to fill where God is concerned. There is no need to supplement Him with anything else or to look for other sources of provision. We can trust Him as implicitly as an infant trusts his mother to feed him. He is all-sufficient! (Amy Tilson & Dr. Lisa Fox)

IF ONLY I HAD...

When we say that God is all-sufficient, we must mean that He is all that we need. We cannot base our happiness on “if only I had . . .” We also must be careful not to allow other people to depend on us instead of depending on God. It is natural for us to want other people to need us, but this mindset can be dangerous because God must be everything to that person. James will give a related illustration from either the Quietening a Noisy Soul series or from the song he wrote, “Lord, You’re All I Need.”

Promotional Post: [Social media post]

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]



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